

AIDE MEMOIRE (my memoire)

The history of the [REDACTED] Situation Report is such a horrible example of something or other that it seems as if something might be done with it. At any rate, I should think it might be difficult for anyone to undertake the burden of proving that the time consumed in its "coordination" has been justified by any results that are likely to emerge.

The deadline for C or D was what used to be called February seventh (now known as 7 February). Today, the Ides of March, George/Sugar Item is in possession of exactly two returns on the paper: a formal concurrence from Army and one of these ~~wax~~ weird conditional things from Air in which they say they'll dissent if we don't do exactly what they ask. We've done so, and I believe ~~them~~ they propose to concur, but the point is that they haven't. Army actually came ~~them~~ through on the ninth.

Most of this delay was the work of State, of course. Branch says they corrected a lot of errors in the SR, which is a very fine thing, but doesn't explain why they should have taken a month in doing so. The Navy still has the paper after about a week of practically no progress. It was thought that they were ready to release it a couple of days ago, and then, most delightful of ironies,

a new man galloped onto the ONI scene, threatening a dissent because some of
the figures in Economics were out of date!

We shall probably have the final word from Navy today, and State is ready
to send in a concurrence any time we say the word. The fact remains, however,
that this thing has been delayed until it is utterly ridiculous, and (assuming

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a [redacted] report is wanted and needed) it would be awfully hard to show why.

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Granted that [redacted] has been kicking around for years so that what difference do
a few months more make, the principle of the thing is bad.

Nobody gives a damn obviously, but if we ever need an example of what co-
ordination should not be, this would be a good one.